

LS 25

P. M. Keill

The background of Mr H is found in Lithuania, that country carved by the cynical surgeons of Versailles from the body of Europe.

Mr H arrived in the United States after the wars and famines of Post-War Europe had coloured his philosophy. A young man of thirty and blessed with the tremendous physique of the Central European warrior he secured employment on the docks of Philadelphia as a Stevedore.

His first taste of salt water, however, refused to be dissipated and the husky peasant yearned for a heaving deck and the smelly parts of the ware. He took the examination for first citizenship papers and secured a job on a tramp steamer bound for Mediterranean ports.

Great strength and vigour are prized afloat and his promotion from ordinary seaman to the bridge was unusually rapid. He soon found himself giving orders to his former shipmates in the fore-castle.

Refusing to fall victims to the indulgent habits of life aboard ship he concentrated his mind upon the task of learning the English tongue and reading widely all the books he could reach in the meager library of a steamer.

✓ These books were of the class stupidly bracketed as "iconoclastic", the usual fare of the literate sailor: Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Ingersoll and other manifestations of a thousand voices crying in the wilderness of the ward.

When he carried his ambition and his thirst for travel over the gangplanks of ships he also carried with him the mainstay of the peasant and the almost sacramental belief in the printed word. To this baggage must be added a delight in debate, an exercise as common to a ship's ^{lib} as her mainmast is to her hull.

The depression and the consequent laying up of ships filled the minds of all afloat. Never a ship left port but carried in her forecastle a maritime demagogue ready to lend a rude eloquence to the cause of Lenin and the Soviet Republics.

Wages were reduced and rations become distasteful, worried officers dealt vainly with rebellious crews and employers cunningly sprinkled Filipino cheap labor in the fleets.

The great Maritime Strike was called in 1921. Men & together with the crews walked ashore and defied the owners.

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3 The colleges of the country gaily contributed young men power to operate the ships.

Lines of hunger stricken pickets saw the young men swarm aboard their ships under police guard and realised the backbone of their strike was broken.

Suddenly they turned other pursuits one in some cases capitulated and went back to work at still lower wages pleading hungry families and desperate needs.

Up to now a rather taciturn fellow Mr H. suddenly raised his voice and scolded the union leaders for dilatory tactics and sought out the company of communists who were on their part anxious to enlist a recruit of such severity and potential strength.

He diligently obtained jobs and endeavored to subject the crews of his vessels with discontent. This became increasingly more difficult as the enemy owners weakened by degrees the white complement and filled in with orientals and filipinos — there were known as mixed crews.

4
Never before used to such comparative
luxury these arenas were sterile soil for
the gospel Mr H had learned to preach.

He was forced to give up his efforts and
concentrate upon the farmer and the factory
worker.

His activities took him to mining towns,
farm towns, factory towns and to the slum and
alleys of cities.

His size was against him after.
The Enemy would attack the strongest bulwark
and he went down time after time beneath
the hysterical bludgeonings of American
big game and hired deputies.

The year went on and the
General Strike in San Francisco was
approaching a climax.

Police men waited for a chance to
use ~~weapons~~ and dense crowds of
the strikers were assembled outside the
docks to obstruct and prevent the
movement of merchandise.

5/ A wheel had been opened, a truck
rescator came slowly thru, the machine
stopped. Lines of blue coated
policemen pushed the strikers back.

There was a sudden outward surge
in the police line, two policemen fell
and the heavy figure of a strong man
was seen racing toward the truck wielding
a long piece of wood.

It was soon over.

Two blows one Mr. H was
insensible. An ambulance picked him
up and carried him to a hospital.

Upon his return consequences
to demand restitution. One, a friend, the
other a representative of the Department of
Labor, Immigration Division.

Placed under arrest he now
awaits deportation.

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L 450
Mr. C. came here from Lithuania shortly after the world war. Upon arrival he settled in Los Angeles where he had a brother. His brother who possessed a men's clothing shop thought the business and Mr. C. soon became an active member of the business.

In 1924 he succeeded in bringing his family here, that is his wife and his two sons ~~seventeen~~ and fifteen years of age. He and his wife did not like the life here in fact they still do not like ^there. However his boys have adapted themselves to the American life immediately and both of them are now college graduates and married. In Lithuania he said although he did not possess a car his life was much more regular than it is here. He did not have to rush, he had his religious as well as national holidays. Here, however, during season time he had to work nights and any other time that the business might require.

In 1928 the business required a branch in San Francisco. His brother and he decided to open a branch here and Mr. C. became the manager here. The general depression of 1929 did not affect their business, however they lost out completely in 1930, when their largest creditor in Los Angeles failed.

Since then his brother still maintains a small
manufacturing ~~shop~~ shop in Los Angeles but he had
a tailor shop in Oakland and was making a good
living, however very much unsettled with the life
here.

13

He left Lithuania in 1902. His father was an orthodox person, however he gave his children a very liberal education. My ~~late~~ informant told me that his older brother even attended the gymnasium, which was rather uncommon among the Jewish people of Lithuania in those days. He had no particular reason for going to America, but he wanted to leave his small home town as there was nothing for him to ^{do} there.

Upon arrival he landed in New York. In New York he spent about four years. He took all the advantages offered in those days to the working man to advance his studies. He was working in an underwear shop and making out rather satisfactory.

He thinks now that it was the desire for adventure that he left for Los Angeles. In about 1907 when he lost his job he did not go to look for another one in the city, but traveled all the way across the country. However in Los Angeles he succeeded in getting employment shortly after arrival. In Los Angeles he did not stay long as he lost his job there shortly after arrival. While at Los Angeles he became acquainted with a few ^{merchants} ~~users~~ of underwear in San Francisco. When

he lost his job he made contact with one of the men in San Francisco, and they agreed to open together an automobile shop. Although his partner had money, the first few years were rather very hard years. By 1912 he had quite a good developed business in which he still works. His partner retired in 1928 and since that time he managed the business alone.

During the world war he was enlisted but never sent out of San Francisco. In 1920 he married, at the age of thirty-eight. He has no children of his own, but an adopted girl who is eleven years of age now. He and his wife are rather very bound to her and do their best to make her happy. Except for his wife and his adopted child and ~~his wife and~~ himself he does not seem to care for anybody. He employs eighteen men in his shop, and I have noticed that he acts with them in a very crude way. He does not belong to any organization nor to any kind of a society. He does however, on rare occasions, support his younger sister who is ⁱⁿ Poland now.

His wife belongs to a few organizations. She is a vice-president of a San Francisco Ladies Auxiliary in one of the synagogues. She told me that she tried a few times to persuade her husband to join The B'nai B'rith

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or any kind of an organization which he would like to.
However, he does not do it. Besides his business and a
ride occasionally he does not ~~to~~ seem to have much
interest in anything.

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on any kind of an organization which he would like to
however, in fact, with all the books in his library and
the occasionally he has not to seem to have much
interest in anything

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21

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